

Sydnor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3398, located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, on its 55 years of community involvement and dedication.

Since its beginning in 1939, Post #3398 has represented the efforts of an entire community. The building itself has changed several times, but the underlying spirit has never wavered.

Post #3398 has a long history of helping the community. The Post's involvement includes sponsoring several annual community events such as the Children's Halloween Party, the Senior Citizens Dinner, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Memorial Day Services. In addition, each year Post #3398 presents the William C. Purcell Scholarship to students planning to attend college. The Post now has four registered service officers to take care of the needs of veterans, widows, and the families of veterans.

Today the Corporal William A. Sydnor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3398 has grown from 36 Charter Members to over 250 members, and approximately 75 Ladies Auxiliary members. I wish the members of Post #3398 continued success and commend them for 55 years of service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL JEFFREY C. BURGESS, USMC

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Jeffrey C. Burgess, USMC, who was killed on March 25 in an enemy attack near Fallujah, Iraq. He served his country with courage and dignity. There is no greater valor than sacrifice in the name of our freedom and national defense. LCPL Burgess and his family will always be in our prayers.

With deepest sympathies, Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues this deeply moving letter written to LCPL Burgess by his mother, Michelle Shea, which was read at his funeral on April 5:

Dear Jeff,

I thought you might want to know what's happened since you left this world for a better place. As usual, life continues on, but oh SO DIFFERENTLY now. Just like you, I am wounded also. The mail still comes each day at the same time, but it now brings letters and cards full of comfort and love from many friends and family.

Jordan still comes up each morning and has his breakfast with me, delivering a big, dimpled smile and a big "HI" comes out of his voice, welcoming in another day with his Nana and Papa.

The other morning before he came upstairs, I was by myself wondering if I might get some kind of spiritual sign that you were okay and asking myself why I couldn't remember some simple things about you. Maybe that's the brain's way of protecting a grieving parent? I don't know.

The church asked me to think of saying some words at your service or maybe having a favorite hymn or song played. I tried, Jeff, but nothing would come to me. I tried ever so hard to concentrate in my quiet morning time alone, feeling so frustrated with myself—when I realized that my concentration

was being disrupted by all the birds that were chirping from the trees in the backyard. I went to the back door to investigate why they were so worked up, only to find just ONE BIRD. There was a bright red CARDINAL perched on the highest limb trying over and over to get his message out loud and clear—over and over he sang to me.

Returning to my coffee and note pad, I realized that I had gotten the message. It was in the form of a familiar song, but I didn't know the title or artist. So, I sent Jen to the Mall in search of a song containing the words that I could think of, at the time. She returned with nothing, but on returning home she retrieved her mail, which contained some CD's she had previously ordered. Watching her open her package, I saw a confused look on her face, because she couldn't understand why TIME LIFE had sent her a 60's CD, when she'd ordered a 70's CD. All of a sudden there was a look of amazement on her face as she realized that the CD in her hand contained the very song we'd been looking for. Your song for us. We immediately played it, listening to the lyrics and realized that this was the message that you wanted to share with everyone. So, I'm carrying out your wishes, Jeff, and will make sure that it's heard by all.

Several more mornings have come and gone since you left and you still come to me each morning, in the form of a Cardinal perched high in the branches of our tree outside and singing your song. I feel better now, knowing you are still with me in the beautiful bird. I now know that you are okay.

In closing, I want you to know that you touched so many of us in so many ways, just in the short time you were here with us. And, although, I won't ever be the same person I was before, I'll go on thankful that you were once mine and that we'll be together again some day in heaven.

I'm gonna sign off now so everyone can hear that beautiful song that is the message from you. I'm sure they'll get what you are trying to say, but to be sure, I had it printed in the program for you.

I love you, Jeff; take care and be forever safe and at peace knowing your brother Marines will finish the job for you.

Love and Kisses,

Mom

GET TOGETHER (The Youngbloods)

Love is but a song to sing
Fear's the way we die
You can make the mountains ring
Or make the angels cry
Though the bird is on the wing
And you may not know why
Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now
Some may come and some may go
We shall surely pass
When the one that left us here
Returns for us at last
We are but a moment's sunlight
Fading in the grass

*Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now

*(Repeat)

*(Repeat)

If you hear the song I sing
You will understand (listen!)
You hold the key to love and fear
All in your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both
It's there at your command

*(Chorus)

*(Repeat)

*(Repeat)

HONORING TROOPER FIRST CLASS ANTHONY JONES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I pay special tribute to Maryland State Trooper Anthony Jones who was killed last week while on duty assisting another trooper. Trooper First Class (Tfc.) Jones every day exemplified the service and sacrifice that we honor in our law enforcement officers. As the recipient of awards for his valor and bravery, and as the anticipated recipient of the "Top Cop" award from the College Park Barracks this month, Trooper Jones demonstrated a commitment to public service and a sincere dedication to protecting and serving our community.

Tfc. Jones joined the state police after retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1998. He spent his entire police career working as a road patrol trooper. He was on patrol when he stopped shortly after 2 a.m. to assist another trooper working at the scene of a single-vehicle crash in Prince George's County. Investigators said Jones crossed the four-lane highway on foot to remove a tire that was part of the accident debris and was making his way back across the road—using a flashlight to warn oncoming traffic—when he was struck and killed.

Every day, law enforcement officials like Trooper Jones risk their lives in dangerous situations on our highways and roads to protect the citizens who travel along our roadways. Last week we joined together in commemorating Trooper Jones and all of the law enforcement officers whose brave deeds led them to make the ultimate sacrifice, or left them disabled.

Trooper Jones is the 39th Maryland trooper to die in the line of duty, and we say a special prayer for his family, friends, and fellow officers of the Maryland State Police. The Joneses must know that a grateful nation mourns their loss and shares their pain.

We honor Tfc. Jones for his service to our country and to his community. I am confident that he will long be remembered with the utmost gratitude and respect. He willingly answered the call to duty, sacrificing his own safety for the safety and security of his community. We shall never forget that sacrifice and will bear witness to future generations the honor and courage Tfc. Jones exhibited as he served the State of Maryland.

Although we don't often thank them for it, officers like Trooper Jones help protect our most cherished rights as laid out by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence: the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We owe these fine and hard working people a great deal for their contribution to our freedom and security.

The words of John F. Kennedy strike a chord this week, "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." As these valiant men and women died because they made it their duty to protect and serve, it is our duty to honor and remember them for their selfless contribution to our communities.